

CLAIMS

The embodiments of an invention in which an exclusive property or right is claimed are defined as follows:

- 5 1. A device for measuring the velocity of a target comprising:
 an array of vertical cavity surface emitting lasers having an energy
 output;
 a first lens configured to capture the energy output of said array of
 vertical cavity surface emitting lasers and project it onto said target whose velocity is to
 10 be monitored;
 a second lens configured to capture the energy output reflected from said
 target ; and
 at least one detector configured to detect energy transmitted from said
 second lens;
 15 wherein said energy of said array of vertical cavity surface emitting lasers
 projected onto said target creates pulses of light from reflectance off of surface
 imperfections on said target , and the velocity of said target is determined by monitoring
 the frequency of said pulses of light.
- 20 2. The device of claim 1, wherein said array of vertical cavity surface
 emitting lasers comprises at least 10 vertical cavity surface emitting lasers.
3. The device of claim 2, wherein said array of vertical cavity surface
 emitting lasers comprises at least 16 vertical cavity surface emitting lasers.
- 25 4. The device of claim 1, wherein said array of vertical cavity surface
 emitting lasers emits light with a wavelength of from about 10^{-7} to 10^{-8} m.
5. The device of claim 4, wherein said array of vertical cavity surface
 30 emitting lasers emits light with a wavelength of from about 4×10^{-7} to 8×10^{-7} m.

6. The device of claim 5, wherein said array of vertical cavity surface emitting lasers emits light with a wavelength of from about 6×10^{-7} to 7×10^{-7} m.

7. The device of claim 1, wherein said array of vertical cavity surface emitting lasers is at least a one- -dimensional array.

8. The device of claim 7, wherein said array of vertical cavity surface emitting lasers is a one-dimensional array.

9. The device of claim 7, wherein said array of vertical cavity surface emitting lasers is a two-dimensional array.

10. The device of claim 1, wherein said vertical cavity surface emitting lasers comprising said array are placed from about 10 to 500 μm apart.

11. The device of claim 10, wherein said lasers are placed from about 25 to 150 μm apart.

12. The device of claim 11, wherein said vertical cavity surface emitting lasers are placed from about 50 to 100 μm apart.

13. A method of measuring the velocity of a target comprising:
projecting an image of a vertical cavity surface emitting laser array onto said target;
monitoring the intensity pattern formed from said image reflecting off of the target with at least one light intensity detector to produce an analog signal;
converting said analog signal to a digital signal with the same frequency;
measuring said frequency of said digital signal with a first counter; and
processing said frequency with a microprocessor to determine the velocity of said target.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising measuring said frequency of said digital signal with a second counter in order to verify the data by comparing said measured frequencies.

5 15. The method of claim 14, wherein said verification is accomplished by having said second counter count for twice as long as said first counter, and said frequency measurement is not considered valid if there is not twice the number of counts obtained from said second counter.

10 16. The method of claim 13, further comprising obtaining at least one velocity measurement of said target and determining the average of said multiple velocity measurements.

17. A device for measuring the velocity of a target comprising:
an array of vertical cavity surface emitting lasers having an energy output;
15 at least one first optic device configured to capture the energy output of said array and project it onto said target whose velocity is to be monitored;
at least one second optic device configured to capture the energy output from said target; and
at least one detector configured to detect energy transmitted from said
20 second optic device;
wherein said energy of said array of vertical cavity surface emitting lasers that is projected onto said target creates pulses of light corresponding to surface imperfections on said target, and the velocity of said target is determined by monitoring said pulses of light.

25 18. A device for measuring the velocity of a monitored area comprising:
an array of vertical cavity surface emitting lasers, having an energy output;
at least one detector; and

an optical path between the array and the at least one detector, wherein the optical path provides a path for the energy output of said array of vertical cavity surface emitting lasers; and

- 5 wherein the at least one detector is configured to detect energy from said array of vertical cavity surface emitting lasers; and

wherein said energy received by said at least one detector corresponds to surface imperfections on said monitored area whose velocity is to be monitored.